

# THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT REPORT



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## NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS CALL ON SCHWARZENEGGER TO SIGN YEE'S VIOLENT VIDEO GAME BILL

**LIEBERMAN, SCHUMER, BLAGOJEVICH JOIN YEE IN FIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL GAMES**

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U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT), U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich (D-IL), have joined efforts in urging Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign Speaker pro Tem Yee's legislation to restrict the sale and rental of extremely violent video games to children

"In the scientific community, evidence continues to mount linking violent media to aggressive and anti-social behavior," said Senator Lieberman. "The interactive nature of video games makes them particularly troublesome. I would be pleased to see Governor Schwarzenegger sign AB 1179, and keep violent video games out of our kids' hands."

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## 22 YEE-AUTHORED BILLS PASS LEGISLATURE IN 2005

**BILLS TO PROTECT CHILDREN, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC SAFETY PASS 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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2005 marked an eventful and productive year for Assembly Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee as he successfully passed 22 pieces of legislation (19 bills and 3 resolutions).

"I am honored that my colleagues in the Legislature embraced numerous pieces of legislation in this session that I have authored and fought for," said Speaker pro Tempore Yee. "Advocating for our children, protecting our environment, creating healthier communities, embracing our diversity, and improving our state's economy, continue to be my top priorities in the State Legislature."

Most recently, Assembly Bill 1179 was approved by the Legislature, which will protect children from the harmful effects of violent video games by prohibiting such sales to those under 18. AB 451 closes a loophole in the distribution of jet fuel sales tax revenue, which will return millions of dollars to communities across the state including San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. AB 1113, 1114, 1115, and 1117, codifies and strengthens the profession of acupuncture.

AB 1263 would establish minimum safety standards for pedicure and manicure equipment and ensure that such businesses have procedures for the proper, safe, and sanitary operation of spa equipment. AJR 14 officially declares California's opposition to any further offshore oil drilling and calls on Congress to continue protecting our marine environments through the longstanding offshore drilling moratorium. AB 444 is designed to improve school nutritional standards. The Governor has already signed AB 800, which adds a patient's spoken language to his/her medical records.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger disappointingly vetoed AB 866, legislation that would have prohibited the use of any negative appeal based on prejudice of sexual orientation or gender identity by candidates or campaign committees who sign the voluntary pledge provided for in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The Governor also vetoed AB 452, a bill designed to protect pedestrians by doubling the fines for

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"I applaud the California State Legislature for passing A.B. 1179 (Yee), a bill that, if signed, will prove to be an effective tool in limiting children's access to extremely violent video games by holding retailers liable for selling or leasing such games to minors," said Senator Schumer. "Such violent video games do nothing but desensitize children to death and destruction."

"As a parent, I'm sure you recognize the struggle so many other busy parents face in trying to protect their children from harmful influences, and in monitoring every video game their child brings home," said Governor Blagojevich. "By putting limits in place at retail and rental counters, you will give parents a valuable tool in their effort to make sure the games their kids play meet up to the standards and values of their own households."

"I appreciate the support from such distinguished leaders," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "Governor Schwarzenegger needs to hear the calls from these national leaders by putting our children's best interests first and signing this bill for California's parents and children."

AB 1179 calls for ending the sale and rental of violent video games that depict serious injury to human beings in a manner that is especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel, to persons who are under 18 years of age. Retailers who violate the act would be liable in an amount up to \$1,000 for each violation. In addition, such described video games would have to be labeled with a designation for adult sale only.

In September, the State Assembly passed AB 1179 on an overwhelming bipartisan 65-7 vote and the Senate approved the bill also on bipartisan 22-9 vote.

**[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON AB 1179](#)**



Screenshot from Postal 2 video game (Whiptail Interactive)

## **YEE CALLS ON GOVERNOR TO RECONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET CUTS IN DEMOCRATIC ADDRESS**

*RADIO ADDRESS ALSO URGES PARTICIPATION IN CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL CLEANUP DAY*

Assembly Speaker pro Tem Yee delivered the Democratic Radio Address on stations throughout California in September. Speaker pro Tem Yee called on the Governor to reconsider his budget cuts that have a severe impact on the environment, as well as urged residents to participate in California Coastal Cleanup Day.

**[CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE'S  
STATEWIDE RADIO ADDRESS](#)**

## **Richmond District Community Health Fair 2005**

Sponsored by  
*Assemblyman Leland Yee, Supervisor Jake McGoldrick,  
Kaiser Permanente, On Lok Senior Health,  
Compassionate Community Care*

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**Saturday October 1, 2005**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Kaiser Permanente**

**4141 Geary Blvd (between 5th and 6th Avenues)  
San Francisco, California**

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Get access to a variety of health screenings, information  
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**[WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/YEE](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/YEE)**

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## YEE CONTINUES TO LEAD FIGHT FOR BETTER NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS

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Despite overwhelming passing the State Assembly on a bipartisan 70-5 vote, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation designed to end the practice of selling unhealthy competitive foods such as candy bars, chips, and soda on public school campuses. AB 443 authored by Speaker pro Tem Yee, called on the State Board of Education to review and revise regulations related to such competitive food sales.

"Foods sold by organizations other than the School Lunch Program are often high in fat, sugar, and sodium, and hinder students' health and ability to learn," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "Although the Governor signed a series of bills on school nutrition, by vetoing AB 443 he is ignoring a loophole that allows the sale of junk food on our school campuses, contributing to the obesity problem that exists with children and adolescents."

"AB 443 complements our work on SB 12, 965, and 281 [bills the Governor signed]," wrote Dr. Harold Goldstein, Executive Director of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, in letter to the Governor. "AB 443 is an important addition to the obesity prevention bills which you sponsored."

The Governor's veto message stated, "the State Board of Education already has the authority to [implement AB 443.]"

"Unfortunately, the Board of Education has not required compliance with these measures or even reviewed the existing codes for over 20 years," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "It is imperative that the Board of Education, as the Governor has stated they have the authority to do, review the existing guidelines and ends the practice of unhealthy competitive food sales."

Competitive foods also affect the number of nutritious lunches that can be provided by the school lunch program, as for every meal that is sold, the program can provide a free or reduced-priced lunch for a low-income student.

"The link between nutrition and learning is well documented," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being."

"Overweight children are more likely to be obese as adults, putting them at a higher risk for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes later in life," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "In addition, obesity and physical inactivity costs California \$28 billion annually for medical care, worker's compensation, and lost productivity."

For his authorship and work on various bills to improve school nutritional programs and children's health, earlier this year Speaker pro Tem Yee was honored by the California School Nutrition Association as the Legislator of the Year.

Speaker pro Tem Yee's second school nutrition bill currently sits on the Governor's desk awaiting signature or veto. AB 444 updates school nutritional guidelines by adding "sugar and sodium" to the list of sources of unhealthy calories and thus foods that should be limited within schools. Sugar has a dramatic effect on the number of calories in a food product, even if a food is labeled "low fat." Over-consumption of sodium has been linked to high blood pressure, kidney problems, and other ailments.

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traffic violations on the dangerous 19th Avenue in San Francisco.

"Despite all of our accomplishments this year, the Governor has the final say on whether or not the legislature's bills become law," said Speaker pro Tempore Yee. "That is why it is so imperative that the public speak out and contact his office to make sure these important pieces of legislation are signed."

The Governor has until October 9 to sign or veto all bills passed by the Legislature. Bills that are signed become law on January 1, 2006.

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**SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE JOINS EDUCATORS, FIREFIGHTERS, AND  
POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE PORTOLA NEIGHBORHOOD  
CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND HEALTH TOWN HALL**

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## SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE ANNOUNCES MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 76, authored by Speaker pro Tem Yee and sponsored by the California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO), dedicates October as Microenterprise Development Month. The Resolution, which was passed by both houses of the legislature in September, recognizes the many contributions of microentrepreneurs, and encourages Californians to support microenterprise development in our communities to further strengthen the economy.

A microenterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, which requires \$35,000 or less in start-up capital and which does not have access to the traditional commercial banking sector. Sometimes called "Mom and Pop" businesses, microenterprises represent 88% of all businesses in California.

Microenterprise development is the process of providing training, technical assistance, support services, and microloans to individuals starting and operating small businesses. Microenterprise development services are usually free or very low cost for those of low and moderate income. There are over 100 non-profit providers of these services throughout California, and they have a proven track record of success in cultivating more and better microenterprises.

"These individuals keep California's economy thriving," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "By supporting microenterprise development, we are ensuring the economic vitality of our state."

For more information about starting or supporting a microenterprise in your community, visit CAMEO at [www.microbiz.org](http://www.microbiz.org).

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## The Autumn Moon Community Festival: New Traditions are Born in the Sunset



On Sunday, September 18, for a few brief hours, Irving Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues in San Francisco was transformed into a festive family environment complete with food, entertainment and art. 3,000-5,000 pedestrians strolled down the middle of the street, stopping at booths to sample local cuisine or browse art and crafts. Children were dazzled by colorful performers and martial artists. Even the 49ers Cheerleaders came out to welcome the crowd. The event: the Autumn Moon Festival Community Celebration, hosted by the Sunset Residents Association.

The celebration grew out of a strong desire and commitment to create a neighborhood tradition that will continue year after year. The Sunset District of San Francisco, and Irving Street in particular, has not been home to a street festival in several decades. With the Autumn Moon Community Festival, that unfortunate dry spell has ended.

Thousands of people soaked up the unusually warm weather while visiting the approximately 50 booths, which included food vendors, talented artists, community services organizations and craft vendors. There was a real effort made to include local merchants. Neighborhood favorites such as Ha's Restaurant, Irving Pizza, Alvin's Coffee & Tea and Irving Best Bargain occupied booths, but the festival also attracted support from SBC, Washington Mutual, NorthEast Medical Services, Tzu-Chi Foundation and other city-wide organizations. The Association hopes that based on this year's success, local merchants will be eager to reserve booths for next year.

When not browsing, shopping, or eating, the festival attendees were treated to quality entertainment. Throughout the day acrobats, singers, dancers, and musicians helped contribute to the lively atmosphere. The program began and ended with a group of Shaolin Monks from China that performed breathtaking martial arts, displaying amazing feats of strength, flexibility and concentration. Other notable performers were: Dr. J.D. Zhang "Changing Faces" Magic, Red Panda Chinese Acrobats, and the San Francisco Gu-Zheng Music Society.

Creating events like this takes dedicated individuals and, among other things, support from corporate sponsors. Some of the sponsors include: Chevron Oil Corporation, San Francisco 49ers, Washington Mutual, State Farm Insurance, Wells Fargo Bank, American General Life Co., and Pacific Gas & Electric.

I acknowledge that all sponsors and vendors took a chance by supporting this inaugural event, and hope that the success of the event will only serve as encouragement for their participation next year. Furthermore, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the Sunset Residents Association for its work to bring this festival to life in our community.

As the sun set on Irving Street, the booths were cleared and the stage removed. As soon as the street barricades were taken away, the cars crept back onto a street that for a day was transformed by families, vendors, entertainers and the good cheer that comes with community traditions.

**Leland Y. Yee, Ph.D.**  
**Speaker pro Tempore**  
**California State Assembly**





September 9, 2005

## San Francisco Chronicle

Friday

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

### Officials question veto of bill to double fines on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. *Yee perplexed by governor's decision on his legislation*

*Michael Cabanatuan, Chronicle Staff Writer*

In the past three years, San Francisco has increased traffic enforcement on 19th Avenue, erected electronic signs that display drivers' speeds, given crosswalks a bolder look, installed red-light cameras and aired public service messages -- all in an effort to get motorists on the busy thoroughfare to slow down.

As a final way of discouraging speeding down the avenue, Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, pushed a bill through the Legislature to double fines for pedestrian-endangering traffic violations on the stretch of state Highway 1.

"This was the last piece," Yee said Thursday.

But on Wednesday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the legislation, saying that it "merely establishes a stretch of 19th Avenue ... as a double fine zone without any additional measures."

That explanation perplexed Yee and his staff members, who pointed to the other measures the city has taken to slow down traffic, some of which the governor mentioned in his veto message.

"We have no idea why he vetoed the bill," said Adam Keigwin, a spokesman for Yee. "It makes no sense whatsoever since, in conjunction with the city of San Francisco, we're already doing all those things."

Maggie Lynch, spokeswoman for the city's Department of Parking and Traffic, was similarly puzzled. The city, she said, has invested more than \$10 million in safety improvements on 19th Avenue.

"We have invested heavily in making 19th Avenue safer," she said. "We're constantly working to improve traffic safety on 19th Avenue. It's always at the top of our list."

The governor's office declined to comment further on the veto.

But Schwarzenegger's veto message also said Yee's bill "would perpetuate the piecemeal process of

using a legislative measure to establish each separate double-fine zone."

Schwarzenegger suggested that the Legislature allow Caltrans to "develop a comprehensive program" for establishing double-fine zones.

Caltrans officials were not available to comment Thursday on whether they had urged Schwarzenegger to veto the Yee bill or whether the agency opposed double-fine zones.

Yee's measure would have applied to Park Presidio Boulevard in the Richmond District, Crossover Drive in Golden Gate Park, and 19th Avenue in the Sunset and Parkside districts.

Nineteenth Avenue is of particular concern for city officials. Although it is posted for 35 mph, motorists routinely drive 10 to 15 mph over the limit, making the six-lane boulevard dangerous for pedestrians to cross.

Since 2000, accidents on 19th Avenue have killed 13 people, including a 54-year-old pedestrian hit by an allegedly drunken driver last month, according to statistics provided by Yee's office. In recent years, about 200 pedestrians have been injured each year on 19th Avenue.

Yee's bill would have doubled fines for drivers cited for speeding, illegal passing, reckless or intoxicated driving and a variety of other moving violations on Highway 1 between Junipero Serra Boulevard and Lake Street.

Yee said he would continue to press for the double-fine zone, working to convince the governor that San Francisco has already worked to slow traffic, then reintroduce the bill in January.

"I live in the Sunset -- I drive on 19th Avenue every day," Yee said. "I have friends, family members and neighbors in harm's way because we haven't done all we can to slow traffic down. I can't walk away from this."

